

AN OLD CHRISTMAS CAROL.

So, now is our joyful feast,
Let every man be jolly;
Each room with ivy leaves is drest,
And every place is merry.
Though some chills at our mirth reprove,
Round our foreheads garlands twine;
Brown sorrow in a cup of wine,
And let us all be merry.

Now every lad is wondrous trim,
And no man minds his labor;
Our lasses have provided them
A hog-pipe and a tabor;
Young men and maids, and girls and boys,
Give life to one another's joys;
And you anon shall by their noise
Perceive that they are merry.

Now Squash has fetched his hands from pawn,
And all his best apparel;
And his new hat bought a run of lawn,
With drooping of the barrel;
And those that hardly all the year
Had bread to eat, or rag to wear,
Will have both clothes and dainties fair,
And all the day be merry.

Now kynes and queens poor sheep cotes have,
And made with every body;
The honest now may play the knave,
And wise men play the noddy;
Some youths will now a nunnery go,
Some others play at Bowland-lo,
And twenty other gameboys mo,
Because they will be merry.

Then wherefore in these merry daies
Should we, I pray, be duller?
Not toying with mirth and merriment,
To make our mirth the fuller,
And whilst thus inspired we sing,
And all the street with echoes ring,
Woods and hills and everything,
Bear witness we are merry.

MISCELLANEOUS DRIFT.

NEWS AND GOSSIP.

Boston boys are called hussib.

Does love in a cottage have any reference to war in Ashantee?

Full many a turkey is now a ghost that one short week ago was a goblin.

Raleigh hasn't a public school in the city, but there are thirty-nine saloons.

The Baltimore oyster war promises to continue so long as the shells hold out.

Beside the great consistory on the 22d, at Rome, there will be another held there about Easter.

Differences between a tube and a Dutchman: one is a hollow cylinder, and the other a silly hollower.

Corn cribs, cows and choirs contribute to the holiday entertainments. They furnish mirth, milk and music.

There were something like 10,000 weddings Christmas eve. The divorce statistics have not been prepared yet.

President MacMahon and his wife have contributed 5,000 francs to the sufferers by the Ville du Havre disaster.

A distinguished Irish gentleman, visiting Vermont, said he never before saw land so plenty that it had to be stalked.

A clear inconsistency—When a man's circumstances become most crooked and twisted, they are said to be straitened.

Chicago wishes to be considered the metropolis of art on this continent on the strength of numerous valuable importations.

A Wisconsin school teacher fell a distance of eighteen feet, and ten minutes after was hearing the class in geography recite.

The stockholders of the National Trust Company offer \$50,000 for the apprehension of R. J. Grier, the absconding cashier.

The Indians around Omaha have a fondness for putty, and chew great quids of it—probably to prevent their lights from falling out.

The Fair dower of the Pacific Slope is getting ready to develop another pitfall. In other words, Laura D. Fair is again married.

The snow is very deep on some sections of the Central Pacific Railroad, requiring, in the Sierra Nevada section, five engines to draw one train.

They have been converting the Baltimore sinners at the rate of 400 per day for a month. Well, the oysters are put up in better shape than they were.

An obituary notice in a Western paper contained the touching intelligence that the deceased "had accumulated a little money and ten children."

When Shakespeare made his observation about patience on a monument, he didn't allude to doctors' patients. They are all under a monument.

The Rev. William V. Feltwell, rector of Grace Church, West Farms, N. Y., having joined Bishop Cummins, has been compelled to resign his position.

All the Chicago newsboys have to do, is to hawl "communism" at the top of his voice, and then the old ladies and editors in hearing scamper off in a fright.

There is a town in Massachusetts where there has not been a wedding for fifteen years. It is the place where good bachelors and old maids go when they die.

The Cleveland Plaindealer says: "Does Tweed hold a trump card?" We can not say, but there is no doubt that Blackwell's Island holds a "knave."—Toledo Blade.

A Baltimore paper speaks of a boy who was bitten by an alleged mad dog. This is to avoid hurting the dog's feelings should he merely be laboring under a temporary aberration.

The Newburyport baby show was a success. A young lady, aged twenty months, took the prize. It has not been ascertained whether according to the laws of her State, she can hold it or not.

A Liverpool hospital refuses to accept a gift of a thousand pounds until the donor gives his name. That hospital won't flourish until it is put into the hands of a competent business man like Bawes.

Gail Hamilton says: "Not the least of the many benefits wrought on us by the clergy is the sweet solemnity which so gently and benignly broods over a weary and happy congregation on a sultry Sunday afternoon."

It is rumored that Geo. W. French, general freight agent of the E. and C. R. R., has tendered his resignation, to take effect on the 1st of January, and that he will be succeeded by E. S. Babcock, Jr., general agent of the St. Louis and Southern.

A Green Bay woman, whose husband kicks her down stairs every second night, says she likes to look over his old letters commencing with: "My dearest, darling little angel, Heaven alone knows the depth of my love for you."

"Have we a fourton among us?" asked a public speaker of a Kansas City audience. Well, I reckon, stranger, said a long-haired man, neatly arrayed in the Terean costume, "I've a bottle of the red eye byar. Will you have a nip? The lecturer was sorry his meaning had been misconstrued.

American army officers have been employed by the Khedive of Egypt for five years. This is to build up his army on a solid basis. While in the Egyptian army the officers will be paid in gold at the same rate of remuneration as in the United States.

army for a similar rank, and the terms and date of payment will be promptly carried out according to the specifications of agreement. Among those who will leave during the next ten days are Colonels Reid, Martin, Rogers and Bassett, all well known, having been connected with the United States service in various parts of the West and Southwest. It is understood that General H. H. Sibley, of Sibley tent fame, has resigned his connection with the Egyptian service, but the cause of his resignation could not be ascertained, although supposed to be connected only with domestic or family matters.

AN IMPORTANT LEGAL QUESTION UNDER THE TEMPERANCE LAW.

A case, involving an important legal question, is now on the docket of the Supreme Court for hearing. It is the case of Casper Reinhard vs. the State of Indiana, brought from Jefferson Circuit Court. The original case was that of the State against Casper Reinhard, for selling intoxicating liquors without a permit. Reinhard was a bar-keeper of one Johnson Conway, and was prosecuted individually for having sold spirits and intoxicating liquors without a license, in violation of the statute. Being convicted of the charge he was sentenced by Judge Allison according to law. A motion for a new trial was made by the defendants counsel, setting forth that the defendant was not a law and evidence, and that the court erred in permitting the plaintiff to introduce a judgment against Conway, for selling liquor to an intoxicated person. The court overruled the motion, holding that the judgment against Conway forfeited his license to sell liquor, according to the temperance law. The points in the affidavit in reference to the sale of intoxicating liquor by the defendant Reinhard are admitted by the defendant, but the permit of Conway's is produced. It is also admitted by the State at the time of the sale of the liquor, Reinhard was a barkeeper of Conway's, the owner of the saloon. But it is claimed by the State that Conway was convicted of selling intoxicating liquors on the 15th of September, 1873, to an intoxicated person, thus forfeiting his license. The legal question involved is whether the act of selling liquor to an intoxicated person forfeits the liquor license under the temperance law.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER.

PROGRAM TO GUIDE THE DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES OF NEXT WEEK.

The services and subjects for the coming week of prayer will be as follows:

Sunday, Jan. 4: Sermons—"The Unity of the Christian Church; the real oneness of all true believers; hindrances and motives to union; the blessings to be hoped for from the union of believers in prayer—John xvii., 21-23.

Monday, Jan. 5: Confession—Our common unworthiness and guilt. Thanksgiving—For personal, domestic and personal mercies, temporal and spiritual. Supplication—For special blessings on the Week of Prayer.—Dan. ix., 7; Mal. iii., 10.

Tuesday, Jan. 6: Prayer—For the Christian Church; for our persecuted and suffering Christians; for Christian liberty; and for the more abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit.—Col. i., 9-11; Heb. xiii., 3; Heb. xii., 1-2.

Wednesday, Jan. 7: Prayer for Families.—Household influence; sons and daughters; the absent, the sick, the erring; inmates of prisons; all educational institutions. Ps. cxv., 12-14; cxlvii., 12.

Thursday, Jan. 8: Prayer for Nations.—For peace among men; for public virtue; for the banishment of sin, and the triumph of intertemperance, honesty, fidelity and superstition; and for the effusion of pure and Christian literature. Is. ix., 17, 18.

Friday, Jan. 9: Prayer—For the evangelization of all nominally Christian countries; for the conversion of Israel; for seamen; for missionaries; for the spread of the Gospel in Mohammedan and heathen countries; for the conversion of the world to Christ. Ps. xli., 3; cxlii., 6; Heb. xiii., 3.

Saturday, Jan. 10: Prayer—For the Christian ministry; for Sunday Schools; for revivals. Matt. ix., 38; Deut. iv., 9; Heb. iii., 2.

Sunday, Jan. 11: Sermon.—Subject: Christ's kingdom universal and everlasting. Ps. cxvii., 1-2. Results of the Sixteenth General Conference of the Evangelical Alliance.

NECROLOGY OF 1873.

THE ILLUSTRIOUS DEAD.

The illustrious dead of 1873 foot up a long list. The following is a tolerably complete catalogue.

January.—The ex-Emperor of the French, Napoleon III.; Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton; the Rev. Adam Sedgwick; the Dowager Empress Amelia, of Brazil; the Honorable and Rev. Baptist W. Noel, and James Hannay, the English novelist.

February.—The Dowager Empress of Austria, Caroline Augusta, widow of Francis I.; J. W. Geary, of Pennsylvania; Caroline Chesbro, and Gustave Richard, the eminent French artist.

March.—Bishop McVane, Judge H. H. Levi, of Vermont; Assing, Speaker of the British House of Commons; Charles Knight, the Marquis Chasseloup Laubat, Amadeo Thiers, Domenico Donelli, and Prince Nicholas, Brother of the King of Sweden.

April.—W. C. Macready, Justus von Liebig, for the wife of Prince Eugene, of Spain; George Bliss, Earl De La Warr, who committed suicide.

May.—W. H. McGuffey, the Earl of Zetland, Chief Justice Chase, Oakes Ames, John Stuart Mill, Joel Parker, the Rev. John Atwood, Daniel Pratt, Thomas Robinson, Alexander John Couza, Prince of Moldavia and ex-Hospodar, and Alessandro Manzoni, Italian author.

June.—Count Venutelli, Mansfield T. Walcott, Prince Adolphus of Prussia, F. L. G. Von Raumer, Horace F. Clark, Lewis Tappan, Hiram Powers, President S. Talbot, of Denison University Ohio, and Jesse R. Grant, father of the President of the United States.

July.—J. G. Wilson, member of Congress from Oregon; Samuel Wilberforce, Bishop of Winchester; Lord Westbury, ex-Chancellor of Great Britain; Baron Wolverton, and Mrs. Clive, author of "Paul Ferrol."

August.—R. S. Storrs, D. D., of Braintree, Mass.; Gardiner Spring, D. D., of New York; the Rev. John Todd, D. D., of Pittsfield, Mass., and Solomon Howard, D. D., ex-President of the Ohio University, at Athens.

September.—Count Charles Esterhazy, committed suicide at Vienna; Gen. Ed. S. McCook was murdered at Austin, Texas.

The wife of Prince Bismarck; Dr. Aug. Nelson, the French surgeon; J. J. Coste, the French naturalist; F. Guerrazzi, Dictator of Rome under the Republic of 1849; Prince King of Hungary, who claimed to be the lawful King of Hungary; and Clara Muntz, known under her nom de plume of L. Muhlbach.

October.—Sir Edwin Landseer; Robert Bigsby, the English antiquarian; Silas Totten, L. L. D.; King John of Saxony; Sir Henry Holland, and Cyrus Wakefield.

November.—Sir William Boyill, Lewis Gaylord Clark, of Knickerbocker Hotel; John Early, Laura Keane, General W. E. Lee, Hardee, H. C. De Rham, Mrs. R. E. Lee, Duod Pasha, the Turkish statesman; General Delafeld, James H. Lucas, L. R. Bischoffheim, ex-Senator John P. Hale, Constantine Costi, Governor Richard Yates, of Illinois.

December.—Bishop Armistead, of Wisconsin; Charles McAlister, one of the Peabody trustees; James W. Johnson, Equity Judge of Nova Scotia; Ambrose White, Louis Agassiz, Samuel Nelson, ex-Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States; John S. Hopkins, Frederick Dent, father-in-law of President Grant; Francois Hugo,

THE SUNKEN STEAMER.

LAST OF THE VIRGINIUS.

ARRIVAL OF THE SANTIAGO PRISONERS—RETICENCE OF THE OFFICERS OF THE OSSIPPE TO IMPART INFORMATION—THE VIRGINIUS GOES DOWN IN A GALE NEAR CAPE FEAR.

New York, Dec. 29.—After the landing at the yard last evening, of the surviving members of the passengers and crew of the steamer Virginus, they marched in an irregular line to the Fulton Ferry, taking the boat there to New York, and thence proceeding to the Cuban restaurant, in Pine street, where they were hospitably entertained. They were clad in navy uniform of the United States, and marched through the streets, showing no signs of the recent suffering. When transferred to the tug boat from the Junata, which carried them to this port from Santiago, they gave rousing cheers for their several benefactors, leading off with three for the commander of the British steamer Niobe, to whom they feel indebted for the preservation of their lives.

When the United States steamer Ossippe was boarded after her arrival here, the absence of the steamer Virginus, which vessel the former was commissioned to bring into port, was explained, and the startling intelligence communicated that the Virginus, which, being all along in a leaking condition, had, when off Cape Fear, and in sight of land, in spite of all the efforts of the crew aboard her, settled and gone to the bottom. The Times further adds that the officer in command of the ship, said he had strict orders not to communicate with anybody in relation to the circumstances attending the foundering of the Virginus. He would not give the date of the occurrence, or the place where it happened. However, he made no attempt to deny the accuracy of the report as to the

FOUNDING OF THE SHIP.

The Captain of the Revenue Cutter Grant, who boarded the Ossippe, is reported saying that the captain of the latter vessel informed him the Virginus had been lost off Cape Fear. Although no official announcement has been made of the loss of the Virginus, no one doubts the truth of the statement.

A dispatch from Wilmington, North Carolina, reports a steamer vessel, which was the Virginus, nine miles south of the main bar.

The Herald has a special dispatch from Wilmington, North Carolina, saying that Captain William H. of the steamer Bonanza, which arrived Sunday, reports passing a sunken vessel nine miles south of the main bar, with only the top masts or the top gallant masts out of the water. A steam tug subsequently visited the spot, her officers concurring in the opinion that the sunken vessel was undoubtedly a square-rigged steamship. A pork barrel was floating about the wreck, attached to it by a twelve inch hawser, the hawser having evidently been used as a tow rope. Pilots at Bald Head, at the mouth of the river, state that the vessel was seen on Friday last, when they observed near the spot where the vessel lies a large steamship in tow of a full rigged ship. The above facts taken in connection with the telegram that the steamer Georgia, from Charleston, had spoken the Virginus in tow of Cape Fear, on the 24th inst., at two o'clock P. M., renders it tolerably certain that the sunken ship is the world-renowned Cuban filibuster steamer "Virginus." The pilot boat from Smithville visited the spot Sunday evening, and the men who were on her fully agreed in the opinion that she is the steamship. Only a few feet of the main mast is

VISIBLE ABOVE THE WATER.

It is thought that when she was abandoned the pork barrel was placed as a buoy to mark the spot where she went down.

Lieutenant Commander Haswell, of the Ossippe, made the following statement to-day concerning the loss of the Virginus:

The Ossippe left Tortugas with the Virginus in tow on the morning of the 15th inst. They had fair weather until the afternoon of the Saturday following. On that day a gale sprang up, and they continued to have bad weather, and the Virginus signaled that she was leaking badly. Captain Walker, therefore, determined to take her in tow, and they got into smoother water the Virginus behaved better, and the water was kept out of her fire room. On the morning of Christmas day, however, the severe weather having continued, the Virginus was again leaking badly as ever, and the vessel of Cape Fear Pan Shoals, about ten miles south of Cape Fear light-house, where smoother water could be obtained. Here the vessel came to anchor, Capt. Walker hoping the Virginus would get the gale over, and the daylight the next morning (Friday). Commander Woodward signalled with lights that the Virginus was leaking rapidly, with the fires out and the pumps stopped, and that the crew wished to be taken off. The boats were lowered, and the vessel was fully manned by seven A. M. all on board the Virginus.

WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE FORMER VESSEL.

As a heavy sea was running, the work of removing the crew was one of much danger and difficulty, and therefore no lives were risked in endeavoring to save their personal effects or any other property on the Virginus. The hawser of the Virginus was cut and a buoy attached to it to mark her position in case she sank out of sight. The Ossippe remained at anchor during the day, and at a quarter past four P. M. the Virginus, which had been gradually sinking, went to the bottom. She sank in eight fathoms of water, and her top masts remained above the surface. The Ossippe then resumed her voyage to this port. The naval officers were very reluctant to-day, and the above statement is not otherwise than true. The United States District Attorney was communicated with and removed the seal of secrecy.

The released captives of the Virginus remain at the Cuban restaurant on Pine street, and the scene there during the evening was one of the greatest enthusiasm. Resolutions were adopted giving thanks to Captain Braine, of the Junata, for his kindness, and expressing sympathy with him in the loss of his son. The ex-captives also related to attend the funeral of the child.

The released Virginus prisoners to-day passed votes of thanks to Commander Braine and the other officers of the Junata. Engineer, Knight of the Virginus, said the original statement at Santiago was that the entire crew should be hung at the yard arm, but the Captain of the Isabella Catholica did not wish a gallows made of his vessel, and obtained a change of sentence to death by shooting and a commutation of sentence of death to life imprisonment. The Virginus was taken to the Quartermaster and one of the others were accordingly sentenced to the chain gang for life, and the other thirteen, all of whom were boys, to eight and four years hard labor on the gang. A life sentence of this kind was regarded as worse than death.

STORY OF THE CALAMITY.

Lieutenant David C. Woodward, who was in command of the Virginus at the time of her sinking, says in his official report, that when he took command on the 17th at Dry Tortugas, the vessel had water in all her compartments. Stores were received on board, and a working party from the Ossippe coaled the ship all night. Next morning she stopped coaling, and put the hands at work pumping and bailing, the water having gained two feet during the night. At eight o'clock in the morning the water was up to

the grate bars in both fire rooms. The forward compartment had a depth of four feet, and the after compartment two feet and six inches of water. At four P. M. she was so much reduced that fires were started under her boilers. Capt. Walker expressed himself satisfied that the Virginus was in a fit condition to start north, and about two o'clock she went to sea in tow of the Ossippe. As long as the sea was smooth everything progressed favorably, but the storm arising, the vessel leaked so badly that he had to plug up the timber holds in the forward bulkheads to keep the fire rooms clear. On the 23d he threw overboard part of the bow anchor and all heavy weights in the hold, and shifted the coal to lighten her forward. On the afternoon of the 24d there was eight to ten feet of water in the forward compartments. The men were worn out, bunks drenched, and no place to sleep. Under these circumstances, Woodward advised the captain of the Ossippe not to go further north, but to take the Virginus into Charleston, where there was a dock. On the 24th the boiler was in such a wretched condition that it was impossible to carry more than five pounds of steam. At five A. M. on the 25th the water gained so fast as to put out the fires, and Woodward took the crew off the Virginus immediately. At this time the forward compartment was full of water, and up to within a foot and a half of the spar deck; five feet of water in the hold, and water over the grate bars in the fire room and the after compartments. The sea was very rough and it was blowing a gale. When the boat from the Ossippe came under the Virginus' bow the landsmen were sent to Charleston, where there was a dock. The officers and men of the sinking vessel, at seventeen minutes past four in the afternoon, the Virginus sank, the bows first, in eight fathoms of water. For four days the men in the fire room worked in water up to their knees. At this time, they left the ship, were nearly exhausted.

THE WORKER'S APPEAL.

The cold winds whistle through the leafless trees. The snow flakes fly before the chilling gale, While autumn, with rich, luxuriant ease, No pity shows, nor hears the worker's wail.

Oh God! I ask not for the beggar's bread; These wretched hands are ready as before; But starving eyes stare round my "withered head," And wintry frosts creep thro' my lowly door.

The dear ones of a mother's tender care, With shivering limbs are gathered near her; Alas! with them she's naught but want to share.

And turns to view the unrelenting storm, Compassion have, ye great ones of the land, A pity not your ample stores. Extend to honest toil the helping hand, None can be very rich where none are poor.

Now howls the bitter, piercing blast again, The dear ones closer to their mother cling; In vain fall from her eyes the burning tears, She weeps more yet about her sorrowing wing.

Oh! can it be that here in freedom's home, Such scenes as this are coldly met upon? Where no spot "neath heaven's arching dome," Where justice reigns or mercy has begun?

Must still the world in love of hell-born gain, Hug close its gold, while brothers starve around, While wretched souls with hunger's maddening pain, And winds pierce with cheerless, hopeless sound.

PERSONAL.

If John L. Samp, of Joliet, ever has a son, won't he be Sampson?

Mr. Samuel Wire, the Sheriff of New Haven, is the oldest Freemason in Connecticut.

Dr. Mary Walker is not sick as reported. Ah! there are many bitter disappointments in this life.

Mrs. Williams would never do for the Goddess of Justice. Her eyes are too bright and wide open.

Ben. Butler's cross and crabbed temper is said to have been aggravated by his failure to ride a velocipede.

A highwayman said "Git off'that ere hoss" to Mr. Thomas, of Basco, Iowa, and Thomas died of fright and dropped off.

Prince Gortschakoff, the Russian Chancellor, is at his desk every morning at six o'clock. It is a habit which he ort' shake off.

Gov. Beveridge was selected to deliver the dedicatory address at the opening of the Champaign County College in Illinois. All very appropriate.

A sawmill was stolen the other day up in East Saginaw, from a man named K. K. Kerchoff—dreadful time for a code in the head.—Cincinnati Times.

Susan Gray, of Iowa, was tied up by the thumbs for disobeying the rules of school, and after her brothers got through shooting the school was closed for want of a competent teacher.

Rev. Lang, of Fremont, Ohio, has had charge of a congregation in that place for thirty years. His father kept tavern, and the sign board far and near was known as the original Auld Lang Sign.

Mr. Richard Grant White passes a whole dust heap of provincialisms and equivocal words through his critical sieve, and shows himself a most accomplished and judicious literary chifferloin.—Ed. Galaxy.

"Who is John Bard?" asks the Boston Post. That's it, who's John Bard? When one reflects that he may go to his grave without knowing John Bard, it makes the stringency of his curl up like straws on a hot shovel.

Christine Nilsson has erected an enormous cow shed on her land at Peoria. She will doubtless thank the author of the following from the bottom of her pail for the information he so pleasantly places before her. The author it may not be necessary to say, is a Chicago bard: "Christine, Christine, thy celestial voice has made the eve between, and not by the dim religious light of the fitful kerosene. For the cow may kick and the lamp may 'bust,' and the fire fiend ride the gale, and shriek the knell of the burning town in the glow of the molten pail."

Poor old Dan Rice has come to grief. After a successful summer tour, he rented the Louisville Exposition building and fitted it up at great expense. But it didn't pay.

Prices were reduced in vain. The whole concert was broken up and sold, the celebrated blind fiddler and horse bringing only \$125. The performers, musicians, and all the employees were minus their wages, Dan not having a dollar left to pay them. During the summer Dan himself, with his blind horse, etc., was traveling with another company in Canada at \$1,000 per week, and that, too, went up, leaving him minus \$28,000.

The Evansville Journal reports that quite a serious accident occurred on the E. and C. R. R. on Saturday evening. Col. Sharra's train, which left here at four forty P. M., was the sufferer. The accident occurred about a mile this side of Princeton, near what is called Red Switch, and was the result of a broken rail. The locomotive and tender passed over safely, but the baggage car and first passenger or smoking car were ditched. There was but little damage done to either, and no person was injured.

WASHINGTON.

OFFICIAL NEWS FROM THE VIRGINIUS—DISCHARGED FROM CUSTODY—THE NEW MINTS TO BE SPAIN AND HIS PROBABLE INSTRUCTIONS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.

The appointment of Mr. Cushing to be the successor of Gen. Sickles as Minister to Spain continues to excite comment concerning the character of the instructions he will receive from the Department of State after the confirmation of his nomination by the Senate. Although usage is opposed to an open declaration of the line of diplomacy to be pursued, it can be stated with truth that one of the subjects to which Mr. Cushing will give his attention will be the policy of political and administrative reform in Cuba, as the best means calculated to restore peace to that island, and promote its prosperity, and among those reforms is included the abolition of slavery in the Antilles. These views have respectively been enforced both in the President's annual messages, and in the official correspondence of the Secretary of State. Fish, have been often communicated to the Spanish Cabinet. It will be recollected that several years ago our Government tendered its good offices to Spain, in the hope of Cuban pacification, but these were respectfully declined. On the basis suggested, it is not improbable that a similar tender will again be made by the new Minister, as the administration will resort to every proper expedient for the purpose of restoring peace, and of protecting American interests in Cuba and adjacent waters. As there can be no doubt that an effort will be made to conclude a new commercial treaty with Spain of friendship, limits and navigation.

The Secretary of the Navy this afternoon issued a dispatch from the command of the Ossippe, announcing that the Virginus sank on the night of the 23d, off Wilmington.

SOME SPICY CORRESPONDENCE FROM SECRETARY FISH AND GEN. SICKLES RELATIVE TO THE RESIGNATION OF THE LATTER.

The following is the telegraphic correspondence between Secretary Fish and ex-Minister Sickles concerning the resignation of the latter:

MADRID, Dec. 6, 1873.

Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State, Washington:

It is published semi-officially that the Government disapproves of my conduct in the case of the Virginus. It is the opinion of the President, my resignation would facilitate a satisfactory termination of the question, or be otherwise advantageous to the public interests, such resignation may be considered as hereby respectfully tendered. (Signed)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.

Gen. Sickles, Minister at Madrid:

The alleged publication of disapproval of your conduct is entirely unauthorized. No dissatisfaction has been expressed or intimated, and it is deemed important that your resignation at this time should not be accepted, as it would interfere with the prospects of an accommodation. Signed,

FISH.

MADRID, Dec. 16.

Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State, Washington:

I respectfully request that my telegram of the 6th instant tendering my resignation and your reply of the same date be now published. (Signed)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.

Gen. Sickles, Madrid:

Your resignation will be accepted. It is hypothetical, and your telegram referred to alleged publications unknown here, attributing a dissatisfaction which had not been expressed. Under these circumstances, the publication is not deemed necessary, and cannot be authorized.

MADRID, Dec. 20.

Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State, Washington:

I respectfully renew the tender of my resignation, which I trust may be accepted now without interfering with the prospects of an accommodation. (Signed)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.

General Sickles, Madrid:

Your resignation will be accepted. Letters of recall, with instructions, will be forwarded by next mail. (Signed)

FISH.

THE VIRGINIUS.